taken by the State Government against violations. Report of Government of Goa in the matter is awaited.

Deceleration in the Growth Rate of Rice and Wheat

2313. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian agriculture has shown signs of deceleration in growth rates particularly of rice and wheat as reported in an article published in the Hindustan Times, dated the 25th November, 1996 captioned "No way to feed a hungry world";

(b) whether India's food requirement would be over 225 million tonnes by the year 2000 and whether our rice production at 2,487 Kg. per hectare, still was low by world standards of 3,320 Kg. and even lower by Asian standards of 3,402 Kg.; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps so far taken by Government to achieve the required annual growth rate of six to seven per cent per annum?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The annual compound growth rate of wheat observed at 5.65 per cent during 1967-68 to 1980-81 has decelerated to 3.70 per cent during 1980-81 to 1994-95. The annual compound growth rates of production of rice during 1967-68 to 1980-81 observed 2.22 per cent has, however, accelerated to 3.48 per cent during 1980-81 to 1994-95.

(b) The normative requirement of foodgrains for the country as a whole by 2000 AD, is presently assessed at 204.5 million tonnes. As per FAO's Production Year Book 1994, the productivity levels of rice (in terms of paddy) for world and Asia for 1994 were 3651 and 3731 Kgs. per hectare in comparison to all India level of 2884 Kgs. per hectare for 1994-95.

(c) In order to increase the growth in production and productivity of foodgrains including rice and wheat, the Govrnment is implementing various crop specific centrally sponsored schemes besides providing price and market support.

Coverage under Drip Irrigation in Madhya Pradesh

2314. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite having largest land area in the country only 1800 hectares of land area is covered under drip irrigation in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to bring substantial area under drip irrigation in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The total area covered in Madhya Pradesh state under drip irrigation as in March 1996 was 1921 ha.

(b) The state does have a potential for covering much larger area with the drip system provided irrigation sources are developed.

(c) The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for promoting use of drip irrigation, under which Madhya Pradesh was allotted total target of 4770 ha. for the VIII plan.

Newsitem Captioned Unchecked quarrying plays havoc with Beas

2315. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report published in the Indian Express, dated October 5, 1996, under the caption "Unchecked quarrying plays havoc with Beas"; and

(b) If so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to stop illegal quarrying of boulders and stones from the river bed to the Beas, which is bringing about environmental degradation and playing havoc with the surrounding areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.